Reviewer's report

Title: Prognostic impact of three immunohistochemically detected markers of neuroendocrine differentiation in prostate cancer

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Reviewer: Jiaoti Huang

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In the manuscript by Ether et al, the authors studied the value of three classic neuroendocrine (NE) makers, Chromogranin A (CgA), Neuron specific enolase (NSE), and Synaptophysin (Syn), in the prediction of prognosis of prostate cancer. Clinical stage at presentation and Gleason grade were used as surrogate markers of biologic behaviors of the tumors. The authors found that CgA has a better correlation with disease stage at presentation than other markers. In addition, increased expression of NSE and CgA correlated with higher Gleason grade, indicating that they may be useful in predicting prognosis.

This is an important study in an area that is still controversial. The study design is sound and the results are significant. The manuscript is well written. My only suggestion is that the authors have the clinical follow-up data and should be used, including survival and metastasis. An attempt should be made to correlate these with the expression of NE markers in the original tumor, which is a more objective criterion of the tumors' biologic behavior.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests